AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A method for displaying the progress and results of a database search until a desired result is displayed, said method comprising the steps of:

a. displaying a set of entries from a database of entries, displaying a set of operators, and displaying a result obtained from the selection of at least one entry from said database;performing an initialization step comprising entering a search term by choosing

b. selecting an at least one item entry of a said displayed set of contents or entries of a database;

c. updating said displayed result based on said selected entry;

d. updating said set of displayed operators based on said selected entry and displaying only those operators from the set of operators that would guarantee that the displayed set of entries in the following step f. would contain at least one entry fulfilling the condition that all entries and operators selected so far combined with an operator from said displayed set of operators and an entry in the following step f. would produce a wanted result, the database search otherwise being over;

be. entering selecting an at least one search command, said search command being defined by at least one operator chosen from a the displayed set of operators and at least one item chosen from the displayed set of contents or entries, the operator specifying an operation to be performed in relation to the chosen items and the data base; and

ef. auditing at least one of (i) updating said displayed set of entries; in response to the chosen selected operator and displaying only those entries from the database of entries that would produce a wanted result based on the selected entry, the selected operator and a selection from the updated set of displayed entries; and of (ii) said set of operators in response to the chosen item, with reference to the contents of the database, and eliminating from the respective set all impossible items or operators, which would produce an unwanted result at the end of said database search, the auditing and eliminating being performed by an automatic

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~~auditing processor or auditing program means;d. displaying in a visible manner the remaining contents or entries of said displayed set, that can produce or indicate a wanted result; and~~

g. wherein said database search is completed when the displayed result is the desired result, or steps ~~b, c, and d~~b through d and/or e through f are repeated until the ~~wanted result is achieved~~displayed result is the desired result.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said displayed set of ~~contents or~~ entries ~~of said database~~ are displayed in at least one list, table or multi-dimensional field.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~content~~ set of entries can be displayed in any hierarchical order.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said ~~unwanted~~ wanted result corresponds to a non-nullity.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said wanted result corresponds to a nullity.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the displayed set of ~~contents or~~ entries ~~of said database~~ is a subset of all ~~contents or~~ entries of said database.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the ~~contents or~~ entries of said database which bear no relevance for the database search are not contained in the displayed set of entries.

8. (canceled)

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9. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~search commands~~ selections are ~~entered~~ made by a ~~conventional~~ computer mouse-clicking mechanism ~~followed by choosing~~ and wherein the operators are ~~a~~ Boolean operators.

10. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the search commands are entered as logical structured queries such as a SQL query.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~applicable~~ operators comprise at least one of the group containing fuzzy logic, phonetic comparisons, mathematical comparisons or other logical operations.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the database ~~contents or~~ entries are represented by words, text or numbers.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the database ~~contents or~~ entries are represented by pictures, photos, drawings, designs, or other visual characterizations of a particular content.

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the database ~~contents or~~ entries are represented by video or audio segments.

15. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein a displayed list of database entries is merged with a number of operators of said set of operators to form at least one hybrid search term.

16. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein a logical operator comprises a plurality of nested or combined single operators.

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17.　(original) The method of claim 1, wherein the progress and results of the database search are being displayed on a computer display.

18.　(currently amended) A apparatus for displaying the progress and results of a database search, comprising:

a database comprising a plurality of entries;

a search processor for searching the database and retrieving one or more entries, wherein said search processor employs retrieval software to fulfill one or more operations to generate at least one search result list,

a displaying means for visually presenting said <u>one or more retrieved entries, said one or more operations and</u> at least one search result list;

an auditing ~~processor,~~<u>processor</u> that methodically determines all database entries capable of satisfying one of said operations, and ~~eliminating from the displayed contents of~~<u>displaying only those</u> entries ~~all~~ of said database entries that would produce ~~an unwanted~~<u>a wanted</u> result upon satisfying the ~~operation~~<u>one or more operations, and that methodically determines all operations capable of generating a wanted result based on said displayed entries and eliminating from the displayed operations all of said operations that would produce an unwanted result</u>; and

a display ~~processor,~~<u>processor</u> for visually displaying at least one of the results lists.

19.　(canceled)

20.　(original) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein said operations are logical operations such as Boolean or SQL queries.

21.　(currently amended) The apparatus of claim 20, wherein ~~a logical operator~~<u>said logical operation</u> comprises a plurality of nested or combined single-~~operators~~<u>operations</u>.

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22. (currently amended) A method for displaying the start, progress and end-results of an operation, so as to enhance the probability of obtaining a desired object, said method comprising the steps of:

a. performing an initialization step comprising entering at least one operand of a displayed set of operands;

b. entering at least one command, said command being defined by at least one operator chosen from a set of operators and at least one operand chosen from the displayed set of operands, the operator specifying an operation to be performed in relation to the chosen operands;

c. auditing at least one of (i) said displayed set, in response to the chosen operator, and of (ii) said set of operators in response to the chosen operand, and eliminating from the respective set all impossible operands or operators which would produce an unwanted result, the auditing and eliminating being performed by an automatic auditing processor or auditing program means;

d. displaying in a visible manner the remaining operands of said displayed set that can produce a wanted result; and

wherein steps b, c, and d are repeated until the wanted result is achieved

a. displaying a set of operands, displaying a set of operators, and displaying an object obtained from the selection of at least one operand;

b. selecting an operand of said displayed set of operands;

c. updating said displayed object based on said selected operand;

d. updating said set of displayed operators based on said selected operand and displaying only those operators from the set of operators that would guarantee that the displayed set of operands in the following step f. would contain at least one operand fulfilling the condition that all operands and operators selected so far combined with an operator from said displayed set of operators and an operand in the following step f. would produce a wanted result, the database search otherwise being over;

e. selecting an operator from the displayed set of operators; and

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f. updating said displayed set of operands in response to the selected operator and displaying only those operands from the database of operands that would produce a wanted object based on the selected operand, the selected operator and a selection from the updated set of displayed operands;

g. wherein the end-results are obtained when the displayed object is the desired object, or steps b through d and/or e through f are repeated until the displayed object is the desired object.

23. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1 or 22, wherein said method is directed by a computer program ~~product,~~ product;

said computer program product ~~comprising~~ comprising a computer readable ~~medium~~ medium having ~~thereon~~ thereon a computer code means which when loaded by a ~~computer~~ computer directs the computer to execute a procedure to display information on a computer display; and

wherein said procedure being executed is based on entered or chosen search terms, search commands, operators or operands.

24. (original) The method according to claim 1 or 22, wherein said method is directed by a computer program element;

said program element comprising a computer code means which when loaded by a computer directs the computer to execute a procedure to display information on a computer display; and wherein

said execution of said procedure is based on entered or chosen search terms, search commands, operators or operands.

25. (original) The method according to claim 1 or 22, wherein said method is directed by a computer readable medium;

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said medium having a program recorded thereon which when loaded by a computer

directs the computer to execute a procedure to display information on a computer display;
and

wherein said execution of said procedure being based on entered or chosen search terms,

search commands, operators or operands.

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26.   (new) A method for displaying the progress and results of a database search until
a desired result is displayed, said method comprising the steps of:

    a. displaying a set of entries from a database of entries, displaying a set of
operators, and displaying a result obtained from the selection of at least one entry
from said database;

    b. selecting an entry of said displayed set of entries;

    c. updating said displayed result based on said selected entry;

    d. updating said set of displayed operators based on said selected entry and
displaying only those operators from the set of operators that would produce a
wanted result based on the selected entry, a selected operator from said updated
set of displayed operators and the selection of a further entry from the displayed
set of entries;

    e. selecting an operator from the displayed set of operators; and

    f. updating said displayed set of entries in response to the selected operator and
displaying only those entries from the database of entries that would produce a
wanted result based on the selected entry, the selected operator and a selection
from the updated set of displayed entries;

    g. wherein said database search is completed when the displayed result is the
desired result, or steps b through d and/or e through f are repeated until the
displayed result is the desired result.

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